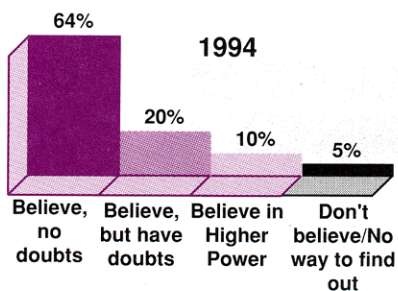


# Americans' Religiosity Is Strong and Unchanging

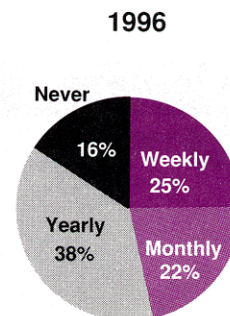
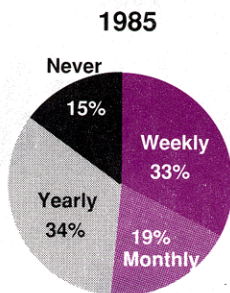
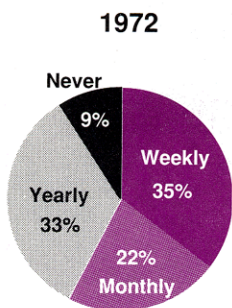
**Question:** ...[T]ell me which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God....I don't believe in God. I don't know whether there is a God, and I don't believe there is any way to find out. I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind. I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others. While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God. I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it.

**Question:** Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? (A) The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word; (B) The Bible is the inspired word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word; (C) The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by men.



	Statement A	Statement B	Statement C
1996	30%	50%	17%
1994	31	52	15
1993	33	49	15
1991	35	48	15
1990	33	49	15
1989	31	50	16
1988	34	47	16
1987	37	46	15
1985	36	49	13

**Question:** How often do you attend religious services?



**Question:** About how often do you pray?...Several times a day, once a day, several times a week, once a week, less than once a week, never.

	Daily	Weekly	Less Than Weekly
1996	58%	22%	21%
1994	56	21	24
1993	57	22	23
1990	52	23	25
1989	53	22	25
1988	54	24	22
1987	56	23	21
1985	58	20	22
1984	57	21	21
1983	55	21	25

**Source:** All surveys on this page are by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey (GSS), 1996, except where other years are noted.

# The US is An Exception Among Industrial Nations

	US	Sweden	France	W. Germany	Britain	Spain	Canada	Mexico
<b>1. "...would you say you are..."</b>								
A religious person	82	29	48	54	55	64	69	72
Not a religious person	15	56	36	27	37	27	26	22
A convinced atheist	1	7	11	2	4	4	3	2
Don't know	2	9	5	17	4	5	2	4
<b>2. "...Life is meaningful only because God exists..."</b>								
Agree	59	14	27	25	35	33	34	50
Disagree	31	73	56	49	52	46	55	42
Neither	7	7	12	9	8	16	9	5
Don't know	3	7	5	17	5	4	2	3
<b>3. "...about how often do you attend religious services..."</b>								
Once a week or more	44	4	10	18	14	29	27	43
<b>4. Percent saying they believe in heaven</b>								
	84	26	27	31	57	50	NA	NA
<b>5. Percent saying they believe in hell</b>								
	67	10	15	14	27	34	NA	NA
<b>6. "I never doubt the existence of God."</b>								
Completely agree	60	NA	29	20	31	54	NA	NA

**Sources:** Questions 1-3 are from the World Values Survey, 1990-1993. Note that the World Values Survey was done by the World Values Study Group, part of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. The samples consist of adults age 18 and over, in 45 countries. The in-person interviews were conducted by local survey organizations. Sample sizes: varied from country to country. Questions 4 and 5 are from a cross-national survey done by the Gallup Organization for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 1981; question 6 is from cross-national surveys done for the Times Mirror Company.